

Cheryl Blades  
6441 Logan  
Waterford, MI 48329

9/30/2014

Dear Honorable Health Policy Committee Members

On January 17, 2011 my mom Nancy A. LaFrance was diagnosed with Adenocarcinoma (this was the second occurrence, she was 72 years old and still worked full time). She had surgery to remove the cancer in February of 2011; we had a few scares in the hospital due to her blood pressure issues. We scheduled her first appointment with Dr. Fata and he had asked for the family to be there for a meeting. This concerned us because he hadn't done that before (in 2007). We came as a family and had a lot of questions to ask. He went through the course of treatment, which was very different from the first time he treated her. I questioned him on several occasions why he was changing the medication when it worked the first time. She was only on Chemo for 6 months and then was cancer free for almost 3 years. Why change it if it's not broken? He stated that this was a new regimen that he and his colleagues discussed and was the best treatment for her. I stated that I was not comfortable with changing because it worked the first time and he got very irate with me (that upset my mom, so I tried to keep to myself, because her health was more important). When then started to discuss having the port put in and I requested that the surgeon worked for put the port in and he again got very irate with me stating that his doctor needed to put it in, again my mom was still in a lot of pain from her recent surgery and I did not want to upset her anymore so I backed off.

My mom started her treatments (weekly chemo and 5 days a week of radiation began a few weeks after chemo) by the beginning of March and was still in a lot of pain. She called Fata on several occasions to ask him if this was normal and he told her it was and he prescribed more pain medication and xanax. During her treatment this time several things kept going wrong. She was much sicker this time, multiple bladder infections, intestinal infections and was even hospitalized with MERSA (per the nurse, still don't have hospital records and Fata did not have any records from the hospital in her file). Through out her treatment she was getting weekly hydration, and Iron injections. Her last blood draw showed her Ferritin level was over 1500 (normal is 18-160). Obviously she did not need the iron injections. In June the Radiologist Dr. Arteberry decided that she was going to stop the radiation treatment because it was too close to her spine (but in her records she states that it was because she was not responding to treatment, her record was not signed by Arteberry until after my mother passed away in 2012). Her last chemo treatment was on July 5, 2011. The following weekend she was not feeling well and very weak as she was walking into her kitchen she fell over a small step and broke her hip and had to have a complete hip replacement. She was treated for this near her home in West Branch Michigan and was immobile for many weeks unable to receive treatment. On August 16<sup>th</sup> she had another pet scan done to see how she was doing without treatment. On August 20<sup>th</sup> she had a really bad headache and slipped in to a coma state, once she arrived to the hospital they did a scan and she had a brain bleed. Could this have been from her medication or was this from the much Ferritin? We will never know. On August 23 my beautiful mother passed away and there are a lot of questions that went unanswered. Was she treated properly?

On August 6<sup>th</sup> everything got turned around Fata was arrested for healthcare fraud and mistreating patients. All the wounds of losing my mom were opened again. In September of 2013 I received my mom's records from the FBI. I sat down with Angela Swantek and she went through my mom's records only to find out that the regimen that he put my mom on was not for lung cancer at all. He never treated my mom's lung cancer, he was just pumping her with medication for the money. If he had treated her would she still be alive.

In April of 2010 Angela Swantek had filed a complaint with allegations of mistreating patients to LARA/St of Michigan. The state found no violation of the public health code. The state failed to find in 2010 what the federal government found in 2013. If the state had done a thorough investigation could my mom still be alive. Could many of our loved ones still be alive? I personally feel that the state of MI has failed us and those that we responsible for this investigation should be sitting with Fata in jail. You could have saved many people from suffering and needless pain.

I'm very happy to see that you are now looking into changing the laws for doctors and healthcare providers. But you need to also make everyone in healthcare accountable. I urge you to continue your efforts in strengthening laws and policy to protect patients from doctors and other health professionals who misuse their powers and their privileges.

Kind Regards  
Cheryl Blades  
Waterford MI